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Letter from Senator Langer to Justin Spotted Bear Enclosing Report from the US Bureau of Indian Affairs Regarding Request to Stop Per Diem for Martin Cross, May 3, 1952

William Langer

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May 3, 1952

Hon. Justin Spotted Bear, Chairman
Halliday, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Spotted Bear:

Enclosed herewith is the report which has now been received from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in response to my inquiry concerning the payment of \$20 per day to tribal delegates when they are in Washington.

It was a pleasure to check into this situation and to obtain this information for you. If there is anything further I can do on this or any other matter, do not hesitate to let me know.

With kindest regards and best wishes to you,

I am

Sincerely,

WL dfg
Encl 1



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Programs

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Hon. William Langer

United States Senate

APR 22 1952

My dear Senator Langer:

Reference is made to your letter of March 28 with which you transmitted a telegram received by you from Mr. Justin Spotted Bear, Halliday, North Dakota.

Mr. Spotted Bear charges that the delegates from the Fort Berthold Reservation proceeded to Washington without the authority of the Tribal Council or the approval of the Aberdeen Area Office. Also, he registers objection to the expenditure of tribal funds for the payment of \$20 per day to tribal delegates when they are in Washington.

The delegates were chosen by the Fort Berthold Tribal Business Council which is the elected governing body of the three tribes of the reservation. It is possible, in view of bad weather conditions, that not all of the councilmen were present when the delegates were selected.

The Area Director at Aberdeen, South Dakota, was fully aware that the Fort Berthold Tribal Business Council was sending a delegation to Washington in support of the tribal program which it is developing for the rehabilitation of the members of the three tribes. In order that there might be maximum participation by the members of the tribes in formulating a program, numerous meetings have been held and are continuing to be held almost daily in communities on the reservation. This means is being taken to reach all the people to insure full participation of the membership in the development of an adequate tribal rehabilitation program and to insure activation of the program as finally approved. In addition, a news bulletin is published weekly and made available to every adult Indian on the reservation. Through these media, the membership of the reservation is being kept informed of all activities relating to the management of their tribal funds and property. Also, the radio station at Minot has a weekly program

wherein it broadcasts, in addition to the news of the surrounding communities, news items taken from the Fort Berthold Bulletin. Consequently, all members should be well informed regarding tribal affairs.

The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation have funds on deposit locally which are expended pursuant to provisions of the tribal constitution and charter. These funds are supplemented from tribal funds on deposit in the United States Treasury which are expended pursuant to authorization by Congress. Insofar as the funds on deposit in the United States Treasury are concerned, the delegates are allowed a per diem at not to exceed \$9 per day. In addition to this allowance, the Tribal Business Council has authorized from funds on deposit locally a salary of \$11 which totals \$20 a day to each delegate. Most of the delegates do not have a regular cash income, and expenses in a city such as Washington appear to necessitate the rate of pay authorized by the council.

The delegates have now returned to the Fort Berthold Reservation. It is my understanding that they plan to make a report to the tribal members covering the business transacted in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. S. Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Commissioner

Enclosure